

STREET SMART

April 2008

Governments
SANBAG
Working Together

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

San Bernardino Associated Governments ■ 1170 W. 3rd St., 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410 ■ (909) 884-8276
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■ April Board Meeting News Briefs

◆ Regional "511" System Update

SANBAG staff was directed to identify the impact of using the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO) 511 Program with San Bernardino County residents and commuters. The goal of the U.S. Dept. of Transportation is to have a national "511" telephone service number operational by 2010 that will provide transportation-related information to the public. Staff will develop a document with their findings.

◆ Report on Marine Terminal for Crude Oil Carriers

SANBAG Board received information regarding a project at the Port of Los Angeles to build the only marine terminal on the West Coast capable of accommodating fully laden large crude oil carriers. The Board is interested in tracking the status and potential impacts on Inland areas as plans to expand the capacities of the Ports progress. The existing marine crude terminal infrastructure in San Pedro Bay is inadequate to accommodate the anticipated growth of water-transported imports of foreign crude oil.

◆ COMPASS Blueprint Implementation Reviewed

The Southern California growth visioning process known as "COMPASS" has been in progress for several years under the auspices of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). COMPASS Blueprint promotes development supportive of: improved transportation mobility and access; livable and desirable communities; environmental quality; and economic vitality. The goal is to maintain, support and preserve existing stable residential neighborhoods. The Board received Facts Sheets for the Cities of Colton, Fontana, Highland, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, and Rialto.

◆ Victor Valley Area Transportation Study (VVATS) Accepted

For the past two years, SANBAG, along with participation from the Cities of Adelanto, Hesperia, Victorville, Town of Apple Valley, County of San Bernardino and Caltrans, has been developing a long-range transportation plan for the Victor Valley. Based on the analysis contained in the Study, the recommended roadway system plan to meet Year 2035 demand included several elements regarding capacity on Interstate 15, U.S. Hwy 395, High Desert Corridor, State Route 138, five new interchanges on the I-15, and development of several arterial streets. The estimated cost of the planned Year 2035 roadway system is approximately \$3.06 billion in 2007 dollars.

◆ Public Transit Funding to Purchase 3 Commuter Rail Cars

Proposition 1B Public Transit Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Account Funding was approved to budget \$5.5 million to purchase three commuter rail cars. The rail cars will be used for service in San Bernardino County. SANBAG will submit progress reports, fiscal and compliance audits, and a follow-up report once the project is completed.

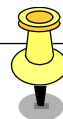
◆ SANBAG Supports Funding Pursuit for Big Bear Feasibility Study

SANBAG Board directed staff to pursue obtaining planning funds from the Southern California Association of Governments to update the Big Bear Enhanced Ground Access Feasibility Study, last completed in December 1996. The Study is looking at transportation alternatives, including improving the highway, creating a new highway alternative, COG rail alternative, Aerobus alternative, Aerorail alternative and possibly other alternatives.

SANBAG Safety Tip

Watch for construction crews, equipment and debris on the freeway, roadway, shoulders or near construction zones.

SLOW for the CONE ZONE !



Down the road ...

- **April 2:** SANBAG Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- **April 10:** Major Projects Committee, 9 a.m.
- **April 16:** Administrative Committee, 12 noon
- **April 16:** Plans & Programs Committee, 1 p.m.
- **April 24:** San Bernardino to Redlands Rail Scoping Meeting, Redlands City Hall, 6:00-8:00 pm
- **April 29:** San Bernardino to Redlands Rail Scoping Meeting, Santa Fe Depot, San Bernardino, 4-8 pm
- **May 2:** 2nd Annual Transportation Forum - "For Whom the Road Should Toll" - at the Hilton Ontario Airport, 8:00 am - 2:30 pm. Forum is coordinated by Cal State University San Bernardino.
- **May 7:** SANBAG Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

SB County Annual Survey Says... **Latest Survey offers 11 years of data**

Three out of five county residents believe living here is a good thing, according to the latest San Bernardino County Annual Survey, which was presented to the Board of Directors this month. The 11th annual survey examined public opinions about life in San Bernardino County, including the best and worst things about living here, transportation and commuting issues, fear of crime, perceptions of the economy, ratings of area services and more.

SANBAG has been a sponsor of the annual survey since its inception in 1997. The Institute of Applied Research at California State University, San Bernardino, conducted the latest telephone survey of 1,352 San Bernardino County residents from September to November, 2007. The survey has a 95% accuracy level, with a 3% margin of error. Survey respondents ranged in age from 18 to 90, with 25% falling within the age 45 to 54 category. More than half of the respondents were college graduates or reported having some college education. This month's edition of **Street Smart** provides an overview of some of the survey results.

■ **County Ratings**

Across San Bernardino County, 24% of those surveyed believed that the county is a "very good" place to live, followed by 44% who said it is a "fairly good" place to live. Another 21% said it is neither good nor bad; 8% said that it is "fairly bad;" 3% said it is "very bad." In general, 80% of the respondents rated the economy as either "excellent," "good" or "fair," with only 20% rating the economy "poor."

Survey respondents praised the area's scenery, climate and affordable housing as the best things about living here. The top three concerns were crime/gangs, traffic and smog. The top three best and worst things about living here have been the same as in previous years, with transportation staying steady as the second worst thing about the county.

■ **Freeway Service Patrol**

During the first year of the survey, only 1.7% of the respondents named traffic as the #1 problem in the county. This year the results show that 10% believe traffic is the worst problem, as opposed to 12% percent last year.

On this year's survey, specific questions about the San Bernardino County Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) were asked. FSP is a roving team of tow trucks that provide help to stranded motorists at no charge for such services as gas, flat tires, minor mechanical problems, etc. About 60% of those surveyed have never heard of FSP. The nearly 40% of respondents who had heard about the FSP program knew about it mainly through word of mouth or because they have used the service previously.

The FSP program has assisted more than 65,000 stranded motorists since its inception in January 2006. SANBAG, as the administering agency for the program, has received many praises from the public. "The service is a blessing and the driver was very helpful and professional," said a stranded motorist who received assistance on November 29, 2007. The most common assistance provided by FSP drivers are with mechanical breakdowns, overheated vehicles and empty gas tanks.



■ **Air Pollution and Congestion in Relation to Freight Movement**

Of the residents surveyed, 75% do not think that government is doing enough to improve air quality. About 65% of residents support fees on goods moved through the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to help pay for less polluting cargo trucks and trains and also to pay for projects that reduce traffic congestion at railroad crossings.

More than 75% of residents polled also support more stringent regulations as a way to reduce pollution from trucks and trains. Approximately 60% of those polled specifically support taxes on diesel fuel and more than 50% support funding from gas taxes and/or sales taxes as a way to reduce pollution.

Surprisingly, 78% of residents would be willing to see tougher air pollution standards on new passenger cars, light trucks and SUV's. Of this percentage, 79% would be in favor of it even if it made the purchase of their next vehicle more costly.

For more information about the 2007 San Bernardino County Annual Survey visit <http://iar.csusb.edu> or call Cal State San Bernardino at (909) 537-5729.